

Marriage-Related Policies

Treatment of Marriage in Other Policies

	Child Support Enforcement	Public Health Insurance for Parents	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance	
	Child support arrears owed to state are forgiven, if parents marry [1] [A]	Two-parent families eligible on same basis as 1-parent families [B]	Two-parent families eligible on same basis as 1-parent families [A]	Marriage incentives provided [A]
	2003	2002	2003	2003
Alabama	No	Yes	Yes	Disregards new or reconciling spouse's income for 3 months
Alaska	No	Yes	Yes	No
Arizona	No	Yes	No	No
Arkansas	No	No	Yes	No
California	No	Yes	No	No
Colorado	No	Yes	Yes	No
Connecticut	No	Yes	Yes	No
Delaware	No	Yes	Yes	No
District of Columbia	No	Yes	No	No
Florida	No	No	Yes	No
Georgia	No	Yes	No	No
Hawaii	No	Yes	Yes	No
Idaho	No	Yes	Yes	No
Illinois	No	Yes	Yes	No
Indiana	No	Yes	No	No
Iowa	No	Yes	Yes	No
Kansas	No	Yes	Yes	No
Kentucky	No	No	No	No
Louisiana	No	No	Yes	No
Maine	No	No	No	No
Maryland	No	Yes	Yes	No
Massachusetts	No	Yes	No	No
Michigan	No	Yes	Yes	No
Minnesota	No	Yes	Yes	No
Mississippi	No	Yes	Yes	Disregards new spouse's income for 6 months when determining eligibility
Missouri	No	Yes	Yes	No
Montana	No	Yes	Yes	No
Nebraska	No	No	Yes	No
Nevada	No	Yes	Yes	No
New Hampshire	No	No	No	No
New Jersey	No	Yes	Yes	Disregards income of step-parent, as long as household income does not exceed 150% of FPL, when determining benefit
New Mexico	No	Yes	Yes	No
New York	No	Yes	Yes	No

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	2003	2002	2003	2003
North Carolina	No	Yes	Yes	No
North Dakota	No	No	No	Disregards new step-parent's income for 6 months when determining eligibility
Ohio	No	Yes	Yes	No
Oklahoma	No	No	No	Disregards new spouse's income for 3 months when determining eligibility
Oregon	No	Yes	No	No
Pennsylvania	No	No	No	No
Rhode Island	No	Yes	Yes	No
South Carolina	No	Yes	Yes	No
South Dakota	No	Yes	No	No
Tennessee	Yes	No	No	Disregards new spouse's income if below 185% of need standard for household when determining eligibility
Texas	No	Yes	Yes	Disregards new spouse's income for 6 months when determining eligibility
Utah	No	No	Yes	No
Vermont	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Virginia	No	Yes	Yes	No
Washington	No	Yes	Yes	No
West Virginia	No	No	Yes	\$100 monthly marriage bonus if parents, with children in common, marry
Wisconsin	No	No	Yes	No
Wyoming	No	No	Yes	No
Total Yeses	2	36	36	8

Definition:

1: Forgiveness of child support arrears that are owed to the state occurs when the custodial and non-custodial parents of the child/children marry.

Sources:

A: Theodora Ooms, Stacey Bouchet, and Mary Parke, *Beyond Marriage Licenses: Efforts in States to Strengthen Marriage and Two-Parent Families*, Center for Law and Social Policy, 2004.

B: Karen Gardiner, Michael Fishman, Plamen Nikolov, Asaph Glosser, and Stephanie Laud, The Lewin Group, Inc., *State Policies to Promote Marriage: Final Report*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/marriage02f/report.htm> (accessed August 8, 2004).